

15
8C5

STORAGE-ITEM
MAIN LIBRARY

LPA-A83E

U.B.C. LIBRARY

THE LIBRARY



THE UNIVERSITY OF
BRITISH COLUMBIA

*Carnegie Corporation Grant
for
French Canadian Studies*

U.S.C. LIBRARIES

Reprinted from
L'AVENIR NATIONAL

"THE CHINESE OF THE EASTERN STATES"

*With the compliments of the
Société Historique Franco-Américaine
Boston, Mass.*



Manchester, N. H.
L'AVENIR NATIONAL PUBLISHING CO.
1925

Hommages de l'auteur
J. A. Favrean

THE CHINESE OF THE EASTERN STATES

Reprinted from
L'Avenir National
November 19, 1924

FOREWORD

As indicated above, the following correspondence, together with the original communication of the writer to **America**, was published in full in **L'Avenir National** of Manchester, N. H., one of the oldest French dailies in New England. In reprinting these documents in pamphlet form for general distribution among the public libraries, colleges, and universities of our country, the Société historique franco-américaine—whose motto is “Lux et Veritas”—hopes to counteract in some slight measure the pernicious propaganda which appears to have reached its culminating point in the article “Fifty-fifty Americans” by Robert C. Dexter in the August (1924) **World's Work**.

Boston, Mass., October 28, 1924.

To the Editor of AMERICA:

Reverend Dear Sir:

I trust that I am not imposing upon your good nature by requesting that you publish the enclosed communication in an early issue of AMERICA, although it will take considerable space.

It seems hardly possible that your contributor could have read the Dexter article in extenso before writing his own article, or he would readily have seen the animus behind it.

Your own action in seemingly indorsing the Dexter article by publishing the unfortunate Benedik comments has been severely condemned, notably by "La Sentinelle" of Woonsocket, R. I. and "La Semaine paroissiale" published by the Dominican Fathers at Fall River, Mass.

I believe that the publication of my rejoinder will serve two purposes: firstly of proving that your review does not wittingly encourage the many busybodies who are constantly endeavoring to stir up trouble and bad feeling between the various racial elements that form the Catholic Church in this country; secondly of demonstrating once for all time that the epithet "Chinese of the East" bestowed upon the French-Canadians forty years ago was not deserved at that time, and is still less so at this date.

Yours very truly,
J. ARTHUR FAVREAU.

AMERICA

National Catholic Weekly,
Thirty-nine West Eighty-Sixth Street,
New York.

November 5, 1924.

Mr. J. Arthur Favreau,
29 Harrison Avenue Extension,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Sir:

I beg to thank you for your letter under date of October 28. I am especially grateful to you for the courtesy, verbal and otherwise, that characterizes your communication. When

my attention was called to the expression to which you take exception, last Tuesday, October 28, I wrote an apology and sent it to the printer to be inserted in the first possible issue of AMERICA, Nov. 8. This apology you yourself can read in the current issue of our paper.

I am frank to confess that the words that gave offense entirely escaped my notice. Why, I do not know, for I am generally very alert to prevent anything that would hurt the feelings of any class of people.

Now as to your letter. Do you realize, I wonder, that it is about 3000 words in length or more: that is, it contains 2400 words more than is ordinarily allowed a letter, and 1500 words more than is allowed an ordinary article. Moreover, it would, no doubt, provoke an endless controversy on a delicate affair and to this I am opposed. In view of these facts and the fact that I have apologized to the French-Canadian people, I must beg you to excuse me from further treatment of the matter. I am returning to you your long letter and the documents that you sent.

Thanking you once again for your courtesy, I am,

Very respectfully,

R. H. TIERNEY.

R. H. Tierney, S. J.,
Editor "America."

A Protest and an Apology

To the Editor of "America:"

In the issue of your paper for October 11, 1924, there is an article on the "Making of Americans," in which the author cites from the "World's Work." In the course of the quotation, the French-Canadians are spoken of as the "Chinese of the Eastern States."

Though we all know how easy it is for a busy editor to miss an expression that may be considered offensive to a reader or readers, yet in view of your unfailing courtesy to people of all races, we feel we should call your attention to anything in your pages that may prove offensive to others.

Worcester, Mass.

A. T.

[We thank our correspondent for his gracious note, and herewith apologize to our French-Canadian people for the oversight of which we have been guilty. The expression is undoubtedly unfortunate and would have been deleted had not an "editor's devil" sat heavy on our eyelids.—Ed. America.]

Mr. Favreau's communication was as follows:

To the Editor of AMERICA:

Inasmuch as one of your contributors has recently seen fit to quote—and apparently fully subscribe to—a statement contained in an article by one Robert C. Dexter which appeared in the August *World's Work*, it may not be amiss to recall, for the benefit of your readers, the circumstances under which the opprobrious epithet "Chinese of the East" was first bestowed upon the French Canadians living in the Eastern States.

In quoting Mr. Dexter, your contributor omitted to state, presumably through ignorance of the fact, that the language (1) which he attributes to Mr. Dexter was not original with that writer, but was taken *verbatim* from the Twelfth Annual Report of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor published in 1881 (more than forty years ago!), of which Bureau Mr. Carroll D. Wright was then chief.

The following year (1882), in submitting his thirteenth annual report to the Legislature of Massachusetts, Mr. Wright, under the caption "The Canadian French in New England," devotes 92 pages to an exhaustive account of the hearing which he had deemed it wise to grant the French Canadians, who had strenuously resented the statements contained in his previous report, and which statements, for reasons best known to himself, Mr. Dexter, in this year of grace 1924, has resurrected after two generations the better to vitalize à la Frankenstein the now popular post-war bogey of "Fifty-fifty Americanism."

Mr. Wright's report, boiled down to its simplest expression, follows:

"The statements met the earnest and patriotic condemnation of the Canadian French of New England; and the French residents of Lowell and Hudson in Massachusetts passed series of resolutions on the subject, and sent them to the legislature during its session of 1881. These resolutions, by concurrent vote, were referred without other action to this Bureau."

(1) *The Making of Americans*.—Anthony M. Benedik, D. D. (October 11):

"The Canadian French (complains Robert C. Dexter in the *World's Work*) are the Chinese of the Eastern States. They care nothing for our institutions, civil, political, or educational. They do not come to make a home among us, to dwell with us as citizens, and so become a part of us; but their purpose is merely to sojourn a few years as aliens, touching us only at a single point, that of work, and when they have gathered out of us what will satisfy their ends, to get away whence they came and bestow it there."

After quoting these resolutions in full,—and if space permitted they would make interesting reading even at this late date,—Mr. Wright continues:

"The legislature, in referring these vigorous resolutions to this office, did not indicate any action regarding them; and if the statements which were so strongly condemned had been made in any spirit of captiousness, or in malice, or through any prejudice against the French Canadians, we should have contented ourselves by simply printing the protests. The statements in the last report having been made in good faith, and as the results of the observations of, and statements made to, our agents, we thought it but fair to all parties that the French should have a full and free opportunity to present such testimony as they might have showing their progress in the United States; and consequently a hearing was announced for Oct. 25, 1881, to which all persons interested were invited."

"In accordance with this invitation, some sixty representative French Canadian gentlemen attended and offered their protests and their evidence which appear in the following full stenographic

Report of the Hearing

"Mr. Wright, Chief of the Bureau, presiding, opened the hearing as follows:

"Gentlemen,—The Legislature of Massachusetts, by Chap. 29, Resolves of 1880, directed this bureau to make an investigation in the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, relative to "a uniform system of laws, to regulate the hours of labor in the States mentioned, and to present the results of its investigations to the legislature in its next annual report."

The investigation was made, and the results reported in the Twelfth Annual Report of this Bureau.

Among the objections given by many manufacturers and operatives, in the States where no ten-hour system existed, was the presence of the French Canadians; and the reasons given by parties why the French were an obstacle to the extension of the system were presented in said report.

These reasons, as well as all other results of the investigation, were reported; and the officers of the Bureau would have been derelict in their duties, and would have disobeyed the positive commands of the legislature, had these reasons not been reported.

"The moment the Bureau, either through fear of offending any party or race, or through desire to favor any party or race, suppresses facts or evidence given it in the legitimate course of an investigation, or introduces statements of its own invention, and reports such for facts, whatever usefulness it may have will be gone, and the officers so prostituting the privileges of the Bureau should meet the very severest condemnation the public can bestow.

"The reasons given by parties why the presence of the French Canadians in factory towns is an obstacle to the extension of the ten-hour system have offended the French; and they

have expressed their disapprobation of such reasons by resolutions, which have been presented to the legislature, and by the legislature referred to the Bureau of Statistics.

"Many bodies of the French, in convention, have passed very severe strictures upon the statements of the report and, what is to be regretted, have not confined themselves to denying the truth of the reasons reported, but have seen fit to accuse the officers of the Bureau personally, of issuing calumnious statements. I do not know as I can blame the French for being exasperated; the only fault, however, I can plead guilty to in regard to the report in question, as it relates to the French, is that it was not stated fully enough, perhaps, that the evidence which offends did not relate to Massachusetts at all, and that it was not explicit enough in stating the localities to which the evidence applied. We were discussing the reasons against the extension of the ten-hour system; and such reasons could not apply to Massachusetts, because the ten-hour system existed here already.

"The legislature has not indicated any way in which the resolutions referred to the Bureau should be treated; but I have thought it only fair and honorable to invite you to this hearing, that you may not only protest against the statements of the report, but that you may introduce such evidence as you may have relative to the progress of your race."

The following 78 pages contain the full stenographic report of the evidence and statistics submitted by the interested parties, after which Mr. Wright sums up as follows:

"But little need be said in addition to the remarks made at the hearing. We have presented the evidence in full, except where condensed by the authors in the revision of their respective statements. We have taken pains to learn if any malice existed in the minds of the informants of the Bureau against the French, and are perfectly satisfied that no malice entered into the case; our informants thought, and still think, they were speaking the truth generally, but freely admit that their statements were too sweeping. It is evident, however, that some prejudice existed in their minds, for they but echoed the impressions existing in the minds of the people; and these impressions were the legitimate results of the policy and actions of certain classes of the French, as will be seen, but which were allowed to apply to the race.

"The reports made to the Bureau came from localities where the French Canadians are not well organized, where they too often live in a way that subjects them to severe criticisms, and where, from a variety of causes, they have been accustomed to change their residence with a frequency which usually led people to think of them as a roving race. It has been with them as with all peoples of strongly marked characteristics: the worst and lowest specimens have been taken as representatives of the race.

"Before and since the hearing we have received a great many written and verbal statements to the effect that the parts of the Twelfth Annual Report relating to the French were perfectly true. In fact, we have not met a single Canadian gen-

tleman who has denied the truth of the report, if it were made the exception and not the rule, and if the term "Chinese of the East" be left out. It is only fair, however, to state briefly how the whole question appears to us.

"Ten years ago but few French Canadians had come to our factory towns. Prior to that, the brickmaker, the wood chopper, and the border farmer gave whatever impression the public mind received. When immigration began in earnest, and thousands of operatives came over the line, they came, as a rule, with not only the exhortation of the French Catholic priest of Canada to return when they acquired some means, but with their own promise to the priest that they would return. The whole influence of the Church in Canada was, and is, exerted in favor of return to Canada. Later on, the Canadian government established paid agencies in the United States, to aid in returning Canadians to their old homes.

"This movement was fostered by the leading French Canadians living here, and has been advocated by the French press of New England except "*Le Republicain*;" even since the last report of the Bureau was published.

"Many, however, came here from Canada with faint or little desire to return. Such settled at once to the business of life, and have become not only interested in our institutions, but have taken part in maintaining them. The idea of the newcomers being migratory arose not from them but from the class which came with the promise and the determination to return, and from their reiterated statements that they should return. And the great number who did actually return convinced many persons that they came simply to gain what they could, but not to become part of the American people.

"Soon another influence began to be felt. The French Canadian loves his church, and is loyal to it. If living in a small out-of-the-way place, he would soon remove with his compatriots, and when sufficient numbers had gathered, the church was organized and became the central power, or influence. The priest coming from Canada, it may be on missionary work, to take charge of the growing parish, soon found himself permanently established in New England and his natural desire was to see his flock grow and prosper. Thus repatriation stood in the way of the growth of the French Catholic Church in New England, and one or the other must be abandoned. Many Canadians returned, and are returning to Canada; but they find themselves more attached to the new than to the old; for, as Professor Cyr remarked in his evidence, things do not look as they did when they were young. So they again turn their faces this way, and seek permanent abodes.

"The efforts of the Canadian government have been almost without success, and with strong French churches established in New England repatriation is a failure; but still very recently, it has been loudly advocated in very many quarters as the best of patriotism. The doctrine has done much, and the most, in fact, towards fixing the impression in the minds of New England people that the French cared nothing whatever for the welfare of the country, but only sought personal gain at the expense of home industry.

"The employers of labor have done much to stimulate French immigration; almost without exception, the mill man-

agers, whatever they have to say about the traits of the Canadians, prefer them in their mills; for they are industrious in the extreme, do not grumble about pay, are docile, and have nothing to do with labor agitations. While in these directions they have won the regard of employers, they have incurred the animosity of labor reformers.

"Another source of the prevailing impression that the French were unfriendly to New England ideas is found in the establishment of parochial schools. However much the effort of the French to educate their children in these institutions may be applauded, the parochial school will always excite hostility on the part of the native. Whether they are foreign to our ways, or inimical to our institutions, are not questions for discussion at this time. We only state the fact that their establishment by members of any race will always raise suspicion in the American mind as to the sincerity of professions of loyalty to our government on the part of the founders.

"The fact should be recorded that our French population is being schooled in our public and their parochial schools to an extent not realized a very short time ago, and to a much greater degree than the public is, even now, aware of.

"Besides these causes there exist localities of French population that make the intelligent French Canadian blush, and that are disgraceful to the cities which permit the prevailing conditions.

The same might be said, with equal truth, of other races. These localities are heard of more frequently than those of good order and good conditions.

"All these things are clearly indicated and shown by the evidence given at the hearing, and are fully substantiated by all with whom we have consulted, whether Canadians or Americans.

"With regard to naturalization, while the French are not naturalizing as rapidly as some other foreign elements, yet, considering the obstacle of language, they are now doing well. The nationality of our voting population is discussed elsewhere. The statistics given at the hearing give evidence of increasing interest in that direction. The fact that the French Canadian population has increased so rapidly only proves that more come than return, while the statistics of property show that permanency is becoming the rule. This, of course, is strongly shown in the building of churches, the establishment of schools, societies, literary associations, etc.

"Now, while it would have been very easy to have combated the evidence given at the hearing, and to have introduced much testimony to support the statements contained in the report of last year, and while we see no reason to strike out the statements therein made when read in the light of the present report, it is very gratifying to know that a wide and rapidly growing movement has arisen among the French Canadians within the past few years, towards becoming citizens, fully identified with us as a permanent and honorable part of our people; and in their every endeavor in this direction Americans can but wish them God-speed. Partly as a result of this movement, efforts for repatriation have been abandoned, and it is now the settled policy of the Canadian French, who come among

us, to come as permanent residents, and to be Americans. Although this movement is recent, yet it is accompanied by such laudable endeavors to acquire a knowledge of our institutions, and to take active and intelligent part in our national life, that doubtless our best wishes concerning them will be realized. The action of every French Canadian convention which we have noted leans strongly in this direction. With such aspirations and purposes as were manifested at the hearing, complete assimilation with the American people is but a question of time. It was the desire to make known these aspirations and purposes, and a disposition to treat all parties fairly, which induced the Bureau to give the hearing; the same reasons warranted the use of so much of the space of this report. The prosperity of New England demands the rapid progress of all her industrial forces, and of these the French Canadian element is certainly one of the most important."

Had not Mr. Dexter undertaken to give new life to the aspersions cast upon the French Canadians more than forty years ago, and incidentally imposed upon the good faith of your contributor, it might seem idle to again attempt a refutation of the unjust and unfair statements quoted in your issue of October 11th.

However, it is a matter not without interest to record that at a later date, in 1907, the same Mr. Wright—then president of Clark University at Worcester after having been for twenty years the United States Commissioner of Labor and having acted as director of the 1900 Federal Census—expressed himself as follows, in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of a paper read before the Worcester Society of Antiquity by Mr. Alexandre Belisle on "The French Canadians in the Development of the United States:"

"I have found in the course of my investigations that no other nationality has developed as rapidly and in as satisfactory a manner, on coming to this country, as the French Canadians, and I am convinced that they have had a great deal to do with the development of our country. (2)

"Yours very sincerely,

"CARROLL D. WRIGHT."

Moreover, Mr. Horace G. Wadlin, recently Librarian at the Boston Public Library, who was an assistant to Mr. Wright at the time above referred to, (1882) and was later

(2) *Histoire de la presse franco-américaine* par Alexandre Belisle, pp. 329-330.

on chief of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor, wrote as follows to the **Boston Herald** soon after the publication of the Dexter article (3) :

"The unfortunate and unjustifiable remark which bracketed the French Canadians in New England with the Chinese appeared not recently, but approximately 40 years ago in a report issued by the then existing Massachusetts Bureau of Labor (now abolished as a separate department), not as an official conclusion of the bureau, but, if memory serves, as a summary of merely personal opinion attributed to some of those who expressed themselves to agents of the bureau in an investigation concerning textile factory conditions in this state.

"This was some years prior to my own controlling connection with the department and I have no documents at hand, but, naturally the aspersion was resented, and in simple justice to a worthy element in our industrial population, the bureau consequently conducted an impartial investigation upon the special point in controversy, with the result that the imputation upon the economic status of the French Canadians here was completely removed.

"Indeed, the remark itself at the time reflected only a certain existing racial prejudice between conflicting elements in some of our mill towns, rather than any real economic condition. No general feeling against the French existed or was justified then, and a good deal of water has run under the bridge since.

"The French Canadian in New England has, after a generation, established his own social and religious centres here; he has become firmly knit into our civic life. It is a pity that anybody, however unwittingly, should stir the ashes of an old controversy. The status of the French Canadian in New England is not open to adverse criticism, and nobody who knows the facts impugns it.

"HORACE G. WADLIN."

"Boston, Aug. 21."

In conclusion, if your contributor still harbors the delusion that Mr. Dexter's complaint

"is only too frequently true, not only in the case of French Canadians, but also with those of other races. And sometimes the clergy who have care of them are, at least in part, to blame by emphasizing and encouraging their national tendencies..."

(3) Mr. Wadlin's letter to the **Boston Herald** was in answer to a communication sent to that paper by Raoul H. Beaudreau, Esq., (former District Attorney for Middlesex County) vigorously protesting against the Dexter article as commented upon by the **Montreal Star** in an article reproduced by the **Herald**.

he should read a communication which appeared anonymously in the **Norwich (Connecticut) Bulletin** on August 5th last and which follows in part (4) :

"No French Canadian has solicited the comment to follow here. It is entirely gratuitous. It is written out of the experience of many years of intimate association with them, after the good part of a lifetime of close intimacy with their ideas, their ideals and their general viewpoint of life. In a word, the article is a rank slander on a people who have done more to develop Eastern Connecticut in the past half century than any other racial group that can be named out of memory. It is an inexcusable offense against a people that furnished more soldiers and sailors for the World War out of this territory—a host of them as volunteers—than any other racial group, including those who reserve for themselves the distinction of being called "real" Americans. The French Canadians may have their faults—and the racial groups of the United States who have not are not of record—but calling them Fifty-Fifty Americans is untrue, unjust and unfair. ,

"French Canadians have been severely criticised for years past because of their insistence that knowledge of the French language be a paramount consideration with them in the United States. There is little justice in that criticism. Any citizen who knows two languages is better equipped to meet the needs of life than a citizen who knows only one. If the French Canadians have been at all in error in this matter of bilingual efficiency, it has been in insisting that people who do not know the French language use it in conversing with them, when, on their part, English was not a barrier to conversation. Such occasions, however, are rare.

"The implication in the article referred to that French Canadians come into the United States not with the idea of becoming permanent residents and citizens, but with the hope that they will accumulate enough money here to return to a Canadian farm and live a life of comparative ease and comfort, as a hard worker might view life, is libelous of a race.

"He who has the time can find no more convincing refutation of this than is to be found in the assessors' records of the town of Killingly. French Canadians have acquired more property of a residential and business nature, built more property of the same kind and developed them more than any other group of people who make up the cosmopolitan population of this town. Starting from zero, a half century ago, they have worked and saved and accumulated more in essential values than any other groups of people who have labored with them. Their record in Killingly and all other sections of Eastern Con-

(4) Since the above was written, information has come to the writer that the author of this communication is Mr. Edward A. Sullivan, a member of the regular staff of the **Norwich Bulletin**, who, for some years past, has been covering Eastern Connecticut for the **Bulletin**.

necticut—cannot be successfully challenged. They have been a hard-working, prudent, peaceful people. Their children and their children's children are among the most desirable citizens, especially when danger threatens the nation. They are Americans, and good ones. If Robert Cloutman Dexter, high-paid writer that he probably is, dealt more with facts than fancies when he assails the French Canadians he would at once offer a public apology for the false impressions he has set up against them and set out to learn something of their thrift and what they have done for this nation, as good citizens, before ever venturing again to attack them and attribute what he regards as their frailties to the fact that they are members of the oldest Christian denomination in the world.

"While not a French Canadian, the writer pays this tribute to a great people out of a sense of justice."

Et nunc erudimini!

J. ARTHUR FAVREAU,
Secretary, Société historique
franco-américaine.

Boston, October 27.

ADDENDA

Although the scope of this pamphlet does not permit of an extended account of the hearing conducted by Colonel Wright as a result of the protests which his Twelfth Annual Report had elicited, it has been deemed advisable, in order to complete the record, to reprint the resolutions from the French Canadians of Lowell to which Mr. Wright refers in his report of the hearing.

Lowell, Mass., May 1881.

Hon. Charles J. Noyes,

Speaker of the House of Representatives:—

Sir,—The “Société St. Jean Baptiste de Lowell, Mass.,” a national and benevolent society of the Canadian French of Lowell, organized in 1869 and incorporated in 1870, according to the laws of the Commonwealth, at a regular meeting held May 4, 1881, unanimously adopted the following resolutions:—

RESOLUTIONS.

Whereas, The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor, in his twelfth Annual Report to the Hon. Charles J. Noyes, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth, denounced the presence of the Canadian French as an objection to the system of ten hours' labor, calling them the “Chinese of the East; a horde of industrial invaders; a deceitful people who seek their amusements in drinking, smoking, and lounging.” etc., etc.,—it is

RESOLVED, That we deny each and every accusation contained in said report, and that we protest most energetically against these insinuations made against the French Canadians of the Eastern States.

RESOLVED, That it is the duty of all and every French Canadian in New England to strongly protest against this report so far as it concerns them.

RESOLVED, That a copy of these presents be submitted to the legislature of the Commonwealth, with our prayers to consider.

J. W. PARADIS, President.

J. H. GUILLET, Secretary.

A true copy of the record—

Attest:

J. H. GUILLET, Secretary.

Lowell, May 1881.

Hon. Charles J. Noyes,

Speaker of the House of Representatives:—

Sir,—The French Canadians of Lowell, feeling aggrieved at the report of Col. Carroll D. Wright, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor, assembled at a mass-meeting, May 5, 1881, and passed the following resolutions which they humbly present for your consideration:—

RESOLUTIONS

Whereas, Lowell is the greatest manufacturing district of the Eastern States, and the number of French Canadians is much greater than in any other centre in New England; and

Whereas, We recognize unanimously the wisdom of the ten-hour system,—

RESOLVED, That we protest, energetically against this portion of the report of the Bureau of Statistics, as being entirely groundless; and

Whereas, For the past fifteen years, agents of the manufacturers have been sent to Canada to solicit its inhabitants to come to the States, promising them good places and good wages; and

Whereas, By repeated invitations this class of population has come to this section to live in this land of liberty; and

Whereas, The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics in his report called them "The Chinese of the East": it is

RESOLVED, That we deny with indignation the epithet, and protest strongly against this portion of the report as being injurious to our race.

Whereas, We, Canadian French of New England are yet, for the most part, ignorant of the English language and the habits and customs of this country, we recognize the high wisdom of the institutions,—

RESOLVED, That we protest the part of the report which says that "we do not care for the institutions—civil, political, or educational—in this country."

Whereas, Since the French Canadians have come to this section they have reached a population of four hundred thousand in New England: and whereas a large number have become proprietors, paying large taxes: and whereas for the most part the young men propose to make their home here,—

RESOLVED, That we protest against the portion of the report which says that we "are a horde of industrial invaders."

Whereas, We have to live five years in the country before we can become citizens of this glorious Republic, and the French Canadians have been here in large numbers but five or six years, there are over two hundred voters of this class in Lowell alone,—

RESOLVED, That we protest with energy against the portion of the report which says that "voting, with all that it implies, they care nothing about, nor rarely does one of them become naturalized."

Whereas, We recognize the necessity of sending our children to school, having done so continually, petitioning the city of Lowell to find schoolrooms for our children,—

RESOLVED, That we protest strongly against the portion of the report which says "that they will not send their children to school if they can help it, and that they deceive also about their schooling with brazen effrontery."

RESOLVED, That whereas the French Canadians of Lowell have established two national benevolent societies, two literary societies which give literary and dramatic representations twice a month, a band that gives occasional public concerts, and three societies for children, furnishing them with proper amusements; and

Whereas, In our population, which is above ten thousand in Lowell, the average found guilty of intoxication before the police court of Lowell is not over twelve per annum; it is

RESOLVED, That we protest strongly against the portion of the report which says that "drinking and smoking and lounging are the sum of their amusements."

J. H. GUILLET, President.

E. H. King, Secretary.

A true copy—

Attest:

E. H. King, Secretary.

Lowell, May 1881.

Hon. Charles J. Noyes,

Speaker of the House of Representatives:—

Sir,—*"L'Association des Jeunes Gens Catholiques,"* a literary society of Lowell, Mass., organized in 1878, at a meeting held May 4, 1881, adopted unanimously the following

RESOLUTION.

Whereas, Col. Carroll D. Wright, Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor, in his report to Hon. Charles J. Noyes, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has most unjustly and injuriously treated the French Canadian population of the Eastern States: It is

RESOLVED, That we protest most energetically against each and every allegation, contained in the said report, having a tendency to injure in any way the good standing of the French Canadian nationality.

JEAN G. CÔTÉ,
President.

H. Constantineau, Jun.,
Secretary.

A true copy—

Attest:

H. Constantineau, Jun.,
Secretary.

We earnestly request that the above resolution be transmitted to the legislature for their early consideration.

A. J. G. C.

H. Constantineau, Jun.,
Secretary.

The hearing was conducted on behalf of the French Canadians by Hugo A. Dubuque of Fall River (now a justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts). After his opening statement, Mr. Dubuque called upon the following gentlemen to present either evidence or statistics concerning the social and moral condition of the French in New York, in New Hampshire, in Connecticut, in Maine and in Massachusetts: Ferdinand Gagnon, editor of "*Le Travailleur*" of Worcester; Rev. J. B. H. Millet, of Nashua, N. H.; Charles Lalime of Worcester, agent of the Canadian Government for the New England States; Rev. P. J. P. Bédard of Fall River; Hon. S. N. Aldrich, ex-senator from Marlborough, Massachusetts; Hon. Charles Q. Tirrell, then senator for the district including the town of Marlborough; Timothy A. Coolidge, manufacturer of shoes in Marlborough; J. Henri Guillet of Lowell, (the founder and first president of the *Société historique franco-américaine*); J. D. Montmarquet, editor of "*Le Messager*" of Lewiston, Maine; Professor N. Cyr, editor of "*Le Républicain*" of Boston; Edward J. L. Héralut, justice of the peace of Fall River; L. E. Boudreau, editor of "*L'Echo des Canadiens*" of Manchester, N. H.; F. C. Milville of Manchester; Joseph Bouvier of Woonsocket, R. I.; J. M. Authier, editor of "*La Nouvelle Patrie*" of Cohoes, N. Y.; J. E. Marier of Lawrence; Dr. Marc Fontaine of Spencer, Mass. It does not appear from the stenographic report of the hearing that a single person appeared in support of the derogatory statements contained in the Twelfth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor.

In closing, Mr. Dubuque expressed himself in part as follows:

"But before I close, I would say that I think we have proved by overwhelming evidence that the statements contained in this report are groundless. We have not proved that they are malicious, but we deduce from the fact that they are false, that they have been presented to you from a malicious spirit or in a spirit which is just as sordid and despicable,—undoubtedly by interested parties. Now, of course, the greatest objection which we have against the report is this, gentlemen of this Bureau, that it singles out the French people in preference to the Irish or the English. What is contained on page 469 and page 470 of this report, gentlemen of this Bureau, could be said of the English element, could be said of the Irish element, could be said of the Portuguese element, could be said of all the elements of society, even of the native Americans,—some of them. What you have said here might apply to a very few exceptions, but it does not apply to the French people as a whole. It does not apply to the majority of the French people, the vast majority of them. It does not apply to the men who have come before you, and it does not apply, I say, to the vast majority of the French people not only of Massachusetts, but of New England. I think you are satisfied now, after this hearing, gentlemen, that all we want here to-day, all we ask, is simple justice. We think we have had it, and we thank you for granting us an impartial hearing. We think that you have shown a disposition to be fair, and to give us what is called in common parlance "fair play," and that is all we asked, gentlemen, and for that we are thankful to you.

"But another great objection we had against this report was this. We would not have been so much touched by the report if it had been contained simply in a newspaper, because there we could answer it. If it had been in "The Boston Herald," if it had been in "The Boston Journal," or in any of the great newspapers of this country, we could have answered it. But here how could we answer it? Here is a document which will remain forever, as long as the State House stands,—in the archives of this Commonwealth. It will be out of this material, as I said in the beginning, that the history of the French people of this Commonwealth will be written. When the social student will come here to study the progress of the people, of this Commonwealth, and of the New England States, he will come to this source of information, he will see these statistics collected here, and moreover, he will see that no other nationality is mentioned here but the French Canadians. He will see that they are brought, as it were, as the great opposition to the advancement of the working classes. He will think, at first, by reading this, that they were a great obstacle to the social and moral progress of the people of this Commonwealth. But I hope, gentlemen of this Bureau, that in the next report there will be such an overwhelming refutation, such a satisfactory refutation, based upon the facts as we have presented them to you, that, even if an injustice has been done to us, justice at last will prevail.

The statistics presented by Messrs. Gagnon, Authier, and Guillet, are brought together in the following table:

	Gagnon's statistics 32 cities and towns	Cohoes	Troy	Lowell	Total 35 cities cities and towns
Total population	417,877	19,900	56,873	59,485	554,135
Canadian population	88,653	6,000	3,992	11,000	109,645
Canadian real estate owners	2,516	176	167		2,859
School children	56,883			7,293	64,176
Canadian school children	13,406	944	508	1,361	16,219
Canadian schools	40	4	2		46
Naturalized Canadians	4,480	800	484	232	5,996
Canadians holding public office ...	53	7		7	67
Canadian merchants and professional men	549	48	96	10	703
Canadian tradesmen	2,014	30		205	2,249

REPRESENTATIVE OPINIONS

Under the caption "French Catholics in the United States," the Catholic Encyclopedia (Vol. VI, pp. 271-277), published in 1909, contains an article which should be of illuminating interest to any open-minded reader of Mr. Dexter's fantastic tissue of half-truths and gross exaggerations. The concluding paragraphs of this article follow in part:

"To sum up, the record of the French Americans in their new country has been such that prominent men of native origin, writers and politicians of note, have sung their praise on more than one occasion. In this respect, one will readily remember the homage paid them upon different occasions by the late Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, as well as the marks of high esteem shown them by governors and members of Congress. As recently as 20 March, 1908, Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, of Massachusetts, speaking on "Immigration" before the Boston City Club, made the following statement:

"Later than any of these (movements of immigration) was the immigration of French Canadians, but which has assumed large proportions, and has become a strong and most valuable element of our population. But the French of Canada scarcely come within the subject we are considering, because they are hardly to be classed as immigrants in the accepted sense. They represent one of the oldest settlements on this continent. They have been, in the broad sense, Americans for generations, and their coming to the United States is merely a movement of Americans across an imaginary line, from one part of America to another."

Following the same line of thought, Governor Channing H. Cox of Massachusetts, speaking at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Société St. Jean-Baptiste of Holyoke, Massachusetts, June 24th, 1922, expressed himself as follows:

"The French-Canadians began to come to this country before the Revolution. They were in the army of General Washington, and at the time of the Civil War 40,000 men of French descent joined in the preservation of the Union. In the recent war the contribution of French-Americans is generally known and it was particularly creditable here in Massachusetts. A large number of the brave men of the 104th Regiment of the 26th Division were French, and when one reads the record of enlistments from many of our cities and towns, he is deeply impressed with the large number of French who joined the colors.

"It is estimated that there are more than 400,000 French people in Massachusetts today, and more than 800,000 in the New England States. They have been the pillar of New England industries and they have become prominent in every line of business, as indeed they are leaders in all our public undertakings. It must be a source of gratification to you to realize that French-Americans have sat in the United States Senate, and in Congress; they have also served in the Diplomatic Service. This year there are nine French-American members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives. We recall the recent conspicuous service rendered to the neighboring State of Rhode Island by its distinguished Governor, Honorable Aram J. Pothier. It has been my good fortune as Governor of Massachusetts to co-operate with the State of Rhode Island, and I have come to have a warm regard and sincere admiration for its present worthy Governor, Honorable Emery J. San Soucy. Here in Massachusetts distinguished French-Americans could be recalled without number. One of our able Judges of the Superior Court is Honorable Hugo A. Dubuque. In our cities there have been Mayors, and in every way French-Americans have occupied positions of leadership and responsibility. Significant of such service is the record of Pierre Bonvouloir, for thirty years City Treasurer of Holyoke, and held in universal esteem and love by the people of this city. The French press of the Commonwealth has been a powerful influence in moulding public opinion. Wherever the French-Americans have made their homes they have not dwelt apart, but have become identified with the community. It has been an easy step for them to move from one part of America to another, and as we look back over their record of brilliant achievements in Massachusetts, we can truthfully say that they have made a large and lasting contribution to the general welfare and to the stability of our institutions, and to the cause of progressive good government."

As Lieutenant Governor and later Governor of Massachusetts, President Coolidge, as well as his successor Governor Cox, had ample opportunity to judge of the loyalty and patriotism of the French-Americans now living in the New England States.

Speaking at Fall River, September 4, 1916, on the occasion of the dedication of a monument in honor of Lafayette, Mr. Coolidge, then Lieutenant Governor, said:

"I love to think of his connection with our history. I love to think of him at the dedication of the Bunker Hill Monument receiving the approbation of the Nation from the lips of Daniel Webster. I love to think of the long line of American citizens of French blood in our Commonwealth today, ready to defend the principles he fought for, "Liberty under the Law." citizens who, like him, look not with apology, but with respect and approval and admiration on that sentiment inscribed on the white flag of Massachusetts, "*Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem*" (With a sword she seeks secure peace under liberty)."

As recently as September, 1923, in a telegram to the members of L'Ordre des Forestiers Franco-Américains, gathered in convention at Westbrook, Maine, the President saw fit to voice the following sentiments:

"The White House, Washington, D. C.
"F. F. A., Westbrook, Me.:

"Please express to the convention my sincere thanks for their message of encouragement and support. I know the members of your organization and our French American citizens throughout New England can always be counted upon to uphold the fundamental principles of our government, and that in loyalty and patriotism they yield to none.

"CALVIN COOLIDGE,
President of the U. S."

FRENCH-AMERICANS AND AMERICANIZATION

In 1916 the four leading French-speaking fraternal societies having their headquarters in New England (L'Union St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique, l'Association Canado-Américaine, L'Ordre des Forestiers Franco-Américains, and La Société Jacques Cartier) formed a central organization under the name of the Franco-American Catholic Federation, "for the purpose of promoting the religious, social and economic interests of the French-Americans." One of the objects of the Federation as formulated in its by-laws, is "to study social questions in order to direct the French-Americans in the right path and to teach them the duties which they owe to civil and religious authority, to their adopted land these United States, and to their homes."

At its second annual-congress, held in Worcester, Massachusetts, February 25, 1919, the Federation—whose membership now exceeds 80,000 and whose pronouncements may therefore be fairly considered as representing the present consensus of opinion of the French-Americans—put itself squarely on record in a set of resolutions regarding the problem of americanization and the use of the mother tongue.

These resolutions, as quoted and commented upon by the late Frank V. Thompson, then Superintendent of the Boston Public Schools, in **The Schooling of the Immigrant**, published in 1920,—it being the first volume in the series of eleven Americanization studies prepared through the initiative of the Carnegie Corporation of New York,—were as follows:

"1. The Franco-American Catholic Federation admits that a knowledge of the English language promotes a closer political, social and economic union among the various groups which make up the American nation;

"2. The Franco-American Catholic Federation does not admit that this union requires the abandonment of the mother tongue and of the racial qualities of these groups;

"3. The Franco-American Catholic Federation even maintains that the preservation of the mother tongue and of the racial qualities of these groups can be useful for their intellectual and moral culture and also for civic and economic values;

"4. In consequence, the Franco-American Catholic Federation puts itself on record against all attempts to suppress or restrict the use or the teaching of languages other than English either in the home, in the school, or in the press;

"5. The Franco-American Catholic Federation exhorts its members to employ all the legitimate means at their command to prevent the so-called Americanization plan from being diverted from its reasonable ends;

"6. The Franco-American Catholic Federation suggests as practical means of action: (a) the use of the influence of Franco-American leaders and groups to persuade industrial and political leaders to support the principles above set forth; (b) to recommend to those of our compatriots who have not a sufficient knowledge of English to complete their knowledge of that language by attending special classes being organized for that purpose.

The congress further declared its attitude on citizenship:

"1. The present congress of the Franco-American Catholic Federation, following the example of so many previous congresses, urgently recommends the organization of permanent committees on naturalization by all French-American societies which have not already organized these committees;

"2. The Franco-American Catholic Federation urges all French-Americans who are citizens, either by birth or by naturalization, not to fail to register for voting and to exercise their franchise at each and every election.

"This statement of position is illuminating as indicative of the attitude of one large and influential foreign-language group in New England. This attitude is typical of many of our foreign-born peoples, and from the position of the author of this study is natural and, as expressed, not antagonistic to sound Americanism. While desirous of meeting the reason-

able standards of the land of their adoption, these groups wish to preserve in some degree their native language and national culture. They do not challenge the state for its insistence on English as the medium of instruction in the schools, but they protest against prohibition at the same time of the teaching of their mother tongue. The resolutions encourage naturalization and the exercise of the franchise.

"We must be tolerant of the fact that these newer Americans cannot abandon at once the old ties of racial and national culture. Racial obliteration cannot take place in one generation; there are no instances in history of any such sudden transformation. Americans of many generations still take pride in their Scotch, Welsh, or English ancestry and they are no less patriotic on that account. Robert Louis Stevenson, speaking of the attitude of the Scotch in his day toward England, says that the Scotchman even yet thinks with a Scotch accent." (5)

(5) **The Schooling of the Immigrant**, Frank V. Thompson (Harper & Brothers, 1920)—pp. 135-137.



DATE DUE

~~FEB 17 1962~~~~★ FEB 9~~

FEB 26 1972

MAR 1 - 1974 RECD

FEB 24 1982

MAR 04 1987 RETD

APR 13 1987

MAY 01 1987 RECD

F15
F8C5

UNIVERSITY OF B.C. LIBRARY



3 9424 01327 2130

